



Testimony for

SB 25, "An Act Establishing an Office of Early Childhood"
SB 26, "An Act Expanding Opportunities for Early Childhood Education"

March 3, 2014

Sen. Stillman, Rep. Fleischman, Sen. Bye, Rep. McCrory, Sen. Boucher, Rep. Ackert
and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is Gerry Pastor and I am the Executive Director of the CT Child Care Association which proudly contains a diverse membership of 155 members representing almost 300 licensed programs in CT. In total we provide services to almost 25,000 children and their families.

It's our association's privilege to first acknowledge the Office of Early Childhood for their efforts in offering the most comprehensive reform for early stage education in the history of Connecticut. OEC has made advancing progress for these children their top priority and we are grateful to see these proposals and funding a reality in this year's budget.

Recommendations for 2014

As a new organization with a very large and diverse membership, CCCA is committed to becoming more of a resource for the state's Early Childhood Education Cabinet. We urge the Education Committee to please consider having our association become members of this cabinet by adding the following language to any vehicle it may find appropriate:

Sec. 10-16z. Early Childhood Education Cabinet. Members. Duties. Annual plan of action. Annual report. (a) There is established the Early Childhood Education Cabinet. The cabinet shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, (2) one representative from the Department of Education who is responsible for programs required under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1400 et seq., as amended from time to time, appointed by the Commissioner of Education, (3) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee, (4) a representative from an institution of higher education in this state appointed by the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, (5) the Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, (6) the Commissioner of Developmental

Thank you again for considering these ideas and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss them further.

Respectfully,

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